

# The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1909.

## THE PRESIDENT AND FREE RAW MATERIALS.

To-night the conferees meet in Richmond to discuss more in detail the nature and the limitations of downward revision. The exact measure of Mr. Taft's irreducible minimum has not yet been made at all clear. It is known that he will insist on free from ore and oil and reduced duties on coal, hides and lumber. But it is thought that he will not stop here. It is believed that he will insist that coal and hides, if not lumber, shall join oil and ore on the free list. But can he even stop here with any confidence that his pledges to the people have been amply fulfilled?

If he does stop here, it is becoming evident that the Republican progressives, who have repeatedly outpaced the Democrats in the struggle for lower duties, will be thrown out of sympathy with his program. Senator Borah indicates that such a policy would cost some of the Western Senators their seats. There is sound intelligence back of this point of view. Free raw materials, commendable as such a policy may be as a foundation for a lower tariff, is no more than a foundation. The man in the street buys few hides, little ore, and not even a great deal of lumber. What he buys and is chiefly interested in are the products into whose manufacture these materials enter. If the absence of competition among manufacturers can maintain present prices on these products, while the manufacturers, by organization, quietly pocket the reductions, the ultimate consumer would be little benefited. If the principle of compensating duties is observed directly, it must also be observed in reverse. When the Senate took hides, for example, off the House free list and made them subject to a 15 per cent duty, the House duties on shoes, glove-leather and the like were immediately raised proportionately. If now the duties on this and other raw materials are to be abolished or substantially reduced, it is manifest that the duties on the finished products must in common sense be correspondingly whittled down. Retail domestic prices of these products would doubtless fall, somewhat at least, without such a step. But this ought to be assured by the bill, and not left to the discretion or the mercy of the manufacturers.

In this contest the President has for his client the whole people, not the manufacturers. He has not yet spoken his mind, apparently through a certain legal cautiousness, and nobody knows fully what he means to do. But there is no other revision which will give the people the benefits they have been led to expect except that which results in lower prices. The President's achievements will be judged strictly in the light of results. If he is content to rest his case upon the adoption of free raw materials, he is taking chances on the fulfillment of his pledges.

## THE INTERNATIONAL OPIUM DISGRACE.

The determination of the State Department to call a new international conference on the opium traffic is a step towards the abolition of an international disgrace. With the dismal example of drug-besotted China before their eyes, where 13,000,000 men are slaves to opium, and with the hopeless fight of Japan against the traffic in Formosa as a national warning, the Western powers, notably England, have shut their eyes to the disgrace and dangers of the drug. Commercial considerations and the revenues from the duties on opium have been put before the redemption of China and the welfare of the world.

That conference which was called by the United States in Shanghai last February, though it failed to advocate any marked and immediate reforms, at least showed the representatives of the twelve countries there assembled the menace of the opium habit. Much of the present agitation was doubtless aroused in large part by the first conference. A second meeting, assembled for the same purpose, should accomplish even greater results.

The action of our government in closing our ports to smoking opium and in prohibiting its use in the Philippines has not come a day too soon. Slowly and insidiously the opium habit has been spreading in America. With a decreasing Chinese population the importations of opium have doubled in the last twenty years. Where Kansas counted 6,000 white opium smokers in the United States in 1882, Wright last year estimated that there were 100,000. Statistics of the opium imported bear out this gloomy estimate of its increasing use. In 1908 the revenue authorities reported that duty was paid on 146,908 pounds of smoking opium and on 309,587 pounds of the crude drug. If the statements of authorities like Consul-General Midzuro are to be accepted, at least 76 per

cent of the total opium imported is used for illegal purposes. No one can doubt this who will observe the significant fact that since the importation of smoking opium was prohibited a single month's importations of crude opium increased from 5,237 to 49,217 pounds. Most of this finds its way to dives where depraved men feast their minds on drug-strewn dreams and nerve their weakened bodies with its subtle poison.

## FEWER ELECTIVE OFFICERS?

It is an obvious fact that the people can vote wisely only as they are well informed. It is equally true that they are well informed only when they have the interest to become so. Thus they vote well upon conspicuous offices, and badly or uncertainly upon inconspicuous ones. The minor office is the golden opportunity of the boss and the machine. If there were no minor offices, or if the electorate took a keen interest in filling them, the organization would be shorn of much of its cohesive power. The latter alternative purports of the nature of the millennium. What about the former?

Richard S. Childs has been making some explorations into the intelligence of the voters in a Brooklyn district with deplorable results. A very short time after the election of 1903 85 per cent of the voters interrogated did not know the name of their alderman, 87 per cent did not know the name of the new State treasurer, 80 per cent did not know the name of the defeated candidate for assemblyman, and so on and so on. There is nothing in the least surprising about this. Inquiry would reveal exactly the same state of affairs in Richmond or in almost any other city in the country. About all but the most important offices the voters as a body are habitually indifferent and content. In the Outlook, Mr. Childs proposes that this situation be remedied by taking all minor offices off the ballot and having them filled hereafter by appointment. Instead of asking the voters to choose an assistant city surveyor, in the candidates for which office they are little interested, and hence little informed, the Mayor, whose administration is to be estimated by the sort of men he gathers around him, is to appoint him. The State Treasurer, whose very name the Brooklyn voters did not know immediately after they had elected him, is to be named by the Governor. In short, the ideals that Mr. Childs holds before us are a brief and simple ballot, an intelligent electorate choosing between men whose qualifications are well known to them, and superior appointments made by judiciously chosen officers of the Charles E. Hughes type.

The idea has some attractions. It follows a plan used successfully by various foreign governments, and, to a certain extent, by the Federal Government in this country. It is a fact, however, that the people are inclined to distrust the appointive power and rather shy at concentrated responsibility. Their tendency just now is to claim increased elective rights, not to surrender any of those they already have. In any case, a delegation of power is only safe where the people actually retain and exercise full control of the delegates. The essential prerequisite to the success of Mr. Childs's plan is that officers who are given the enlarged appointive powers, like the Mayor and the Governor, shall always represent the free and enlightened choice of the people. It is an unfortunate fact that such officers sometimes represent nothing of the sort. When the bosses control the mayors and the mayors control the minor offices, the last state of the people is worse than the first.

## A PLUCKY WOMAN'S PERSISTENCE.

The reopening of the Sutton case, for better or worse, is a triumph of one woman's persistence. Lieutenant Sutton died on October 13, 1907, and a board of inquiry decided that he died by his own hand. Within two months, the Secretary of the Navy at that time, Mr. Metcalf, received a letter from the young man's mother, petitioning a re-inquiry on the ground that the original investigation had not been complete, and that new evidence indicating murder had come to light. This petition was denied. A little later on Senator Fulton, of Oregon, who had interested himself in the case in behalf of the Sutton family, decided to abandon it, and Mrs. Sutton was left to a single-handed fight. There it rested until a change took place in the Secretary's office, and Mr. Newberry came in. Mrs. Sutton at once approached the new Secretary, who told her, erroneously as it turns out, "The case is closed forever." An attempt to see Mr. Roosevelt and a second attempt to see Mr. Newberry both failed, and the case rested again, permanently as it then seemed. But along came a new Secretary of the Navy, a new President and a new attitude toward complaints, and Mrs. Sutton determined to try again. The board of inquiry now sitting at Annapolis is the result.

## TAFT AND THE PANAMA BONDS.

Will the New Issue Be Compared to Cleveland's Policy? Twenty years hence will some candidate for President of the United States, exhibiting on the stump his knowledge of the history of the country, declare that before William Howard Taft had been in office six months it became necessary to issue \$100,000,000 of bonds to refer to these evidences of debt as Taft bonds, thus seeking to convey the impression that on Mr. Taft personally, his administration and his policies, rests the burden of responsibility.

It is earnestly to be hoped that there will be no such vicious misrepresentation of the \$147,000,000 bond issue now authorized. It is to be hoped that in all future discussions of this subject the various facts and factors will be set forth as they are, and that the personalities eliminated, and that the incident will be treated with historical moderation and scientific impartiality. And when President Taft signs the bill authorizing the \$147,000,000 of national indebtedness it is to be hoped that he will not allow to cause him the regret any memory of the candidate for President of the United States who in the summer of 1908 declared that the bond issues necessitated by the nation's needs in the second administration of Grover Cleveland.—New York Sun.

## THE HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES.

Hawthorne's Historic Edifice to Be Made Into a Social Settlement. Visitors to Salem, intent upon tracing the various stages of Hawthorne's residence and the history of the city, are disappointed by an unattractive wooden house surrounded by a tall, yellow fence, overshadowed by elms and a depressing street. This is called the House of Seven Gables. It has been maintained partly as a museum, but will, according to report, be converted into a settlement home by a recent purchaser. Tradition says that it once had seven gables. If so they disappeared even before Hawthorne's day. The only relation that it has to the story of the same name is that Hawthorne, being told that the house once had seven gables, saw in that architectural peculiarity a possible title for a future romance. It requires a very vivid imagination to identify the house as it stands to-day with the one that the novelist described in his tale of hereditary evil. Nevertheless, it has long been a place of pilgrimage for the curious and the devotees of Hawthorne. It is so well known that it has not a direct and intimate relation to the events set forth in the book. It is a landmark in America having so little claim to distinction as this house, yet it has received so much attention from the public.—Brooklyn Daily

Whatsoever the result of the present hearing, she has made a plucky fight to dispel the shadow of self-destruction from the young man's name.

## THE MEDICANTS OF ROANOKE.

Charlie Brown, a lively little runaway with a bad back, has arrived in Richmond with an interesting remark. From Rodgersville, Tenn., Charlie has begged a merry way northward through nine cities. In eight of these cities his receipts average \$5 a day, but in the ninth city, Roanoke, they averaged \$10 a day. The discrepancy invites thought. Is Roanoke more liberal and open-handed, more of a spender, than her sister cities? In the matter of public banquets, Norfolk, the twenty-plate town, considers Roanoke rather the contrary, but we have heretofore endeavored to show that Roanoke's attitude toward things gastronomic springs from innate refinement, not parsimony. Is it simply that Roanoke is tender-hearted or "easy"—that, while appreciating the value of a dollar as well as any other town, she has never learned to say no? Or is it that Roanoke has more money than she knows what to do with—is, in fact, teeming and bursting with it and spilling it out unheeded in the gold-clogged gutters? Overproduction, the economists tell us, tends to lower values. Maybe there is so much money in Roanoke that the people don't care for any more, thank you, and the price of it has consequently dropped 50 per cent.

But from the standpoint of carefree knights of the road, who are rarely depressed by financial oversupply, \$10 a day is exactly twice as good as \$5 a day. If Charlie's story is strictly accurate, then here is the medicant's earthly paradise: princely people and double-pay for the no-hour day. If wishes were horses, by this time tomorrow every beggar in Christendom would be galloping hard toward Roanoke.

The English Channel is not a good place to fall in. Aeronauts looking for soft and delicious waters to fall in should come and aviate over the delightful James River.

By way of the new tunnel you can go from New York to Jersey City in three minutes, but what's the use?

Ball of Cleveland, who made the triple play fair, is clearly entitled to have a two-for-a-quarter collar named after him.

It appears that the completion of the Panama Canal is to be purchased at the price of bonds, though not slavery.

The Wrights' knowledge of aviation has not taken flight at all.

Of course, it may be some vaudeville stage would be willing to take on Ella Gingles.

In considering the propriety of that \$25,000 appropriation for traveling expenses, one must remember that Mr. Taft lives in Washington, where the inducements to travel are very great.

The Hudson River tunnels have got openers at last.

We beg to remind the conferees that very young husbands are probably the State's best authorities on raw materials.

"Don Jaime is a singular prince." Says the Milltown Banner. Certainly. Otherwise he'd be Don Jaime.

Patrick Calhoun is being tried again. Mr. Calhoun may yet acquire some standing as the Caleb Powers of San Francisco.

"Suffragettes in the Sea," says the headline. "In the 'or' at?"

"President Taft," remarks the Boston Herald, "is reported to have taken the bit in his teeth in an operation of this sort. Mr. Taft is at a great disadvantage as compared with his predecessor."

Incidentally, the corporation tax is likely to cost a big bite in the New Jersey revenue system.

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## Borrowed Jingles.

TYPHOID MARY.

In U. S. A. (across the brook)  
 There lives, unless the papers err,  
 A very curious Irish cook.  
 In whom the strangest things occur.  
 Beneath her outside healthy glow  
 Of microbes seethes and wallow,  
 And wherever that Mary goes  
 Internal epidemics follow.

Herself immune and full of beans,  
 A state her ruddy cheek confirms.  
 To say she runs, behind the scenes,  
 A Collins factory of germs,  
 Wherever, rosy and robust,  
 She was engaged to boil the vittles,  
 The family would bite the dust,  
 Falling about her path like victims.

What latent seeds of typhoid lurk  
 In ambush near her every pore,  
 You'll see in Dr. Soper's work—  
 A chronic factory of germs.  
 A statistician gives his view  
 That, if she kept a dairy farm, he  
 Reasons that on her own shed  
 More damage than a German army.

Our Mary, being shut away  
 For two whole years to get her clean,  
 Is just as kerry as the day  
 Of when she was a kitchen maid.  
 And now the court that tries her case  
 (Her chance was but the merest ciphers)  
 Sprinkles aspic round the plate,  
 And says she ought to have a liver.

And yet she's not the only one  
 That flings destruction far and wide,  
 And still contrives somehow to shun  
 The horrid poison housed inside.  
 —Punch.

## MEREELY JOKING.

The Better Home.

Nell (seriously): "Between the rich old man I don't love and the poor young man I do love I am between two horns of a dilemma."

Belle (flippantly): "Then take the horn of plenty."—Baltimore American.

A Glaring Slip.

Miss Hybrow: "I suppose you find many incongruities in the writings of even our most careful historians."

Mr. Kirtick: "I should say so. Why, in Jewell's latest book, he makes a Newport society aspic round the plate."

Generous.

"How nicely you have ironed these things," said the mistress admiringly to her maid. Then, glancing at the glossy linen, she continued in a tone of surprise: "Oh, but I see they are a year old."

"Yes," replied Jane, "and I'd do all your just like that if I had time."—Central Methodist Advocate.

Embarrassing Patriotism.

Miss Vain: "Your father is very patriotic, even for a veteran, isn't he?"

Mrs. De Style: "Positively rabid. He nearly broke up my Fourth of July luncheon by insisting on appearing in a union suit."—Puck.

## THE WHISPERING GALLERY.

THE DEPOSED Shah of Persia might find a snug berth and a sympathetic welcome at Saloniki, Turkey.—New York Tribune.

It begins to look as if Opportunity were going to walk boldly up to Taft's door and deliver a knock that may be heard clear across the country.—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Joe" Brown, Georgia's homespun Governor, is to have his staff increased from thirty to fifty colonels as a further evidence of his love of simplicity. In a prohibition State how will his enlarged staff manage to meet the requirements of their titles.—New York World.

Kaiser Wilhelm says the battles of the future will be industrial—and at the same time orders a few more Dreadnoughts.—Detroit Free Press.

Hereafter the tariff will place every time you put on a pair of shoes.—Florida Times-Union.

The town of Eden, Maine, has voted to keep out automobiles. There was no referendum of the admission of serpents to the original Eden.—Boston Journal.

## CASTORIA

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And again we have watches which are good for twenty-five or thirty years or more.

Let us show you our reliable watches—such standard makes as the HOWARD, ELGIN, WALTHAM, ILLINOIS, HAMILTON, etc.

We are here to advise you as to the best watch fitted to your needs.

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at our fountain. Take away ice-cold Vernor's Ginger Ale, the greatest of all drinks. Cools and refreshes. A fine summer tonic. For sale only at

Polk Miller's, 834 E. Main.

## The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenay.

### THE TURK AND PIETY.

HOISE-RACING and piety are not usually supposed to go together, yet in Europe, more especially in England, many of the principal owners of racing stables, prominent among them the Duke of Portland, devote all the stakes won by their horses amounting in the aggregate to a very large sum of money to the support of charities, while in Newmarket, which is more famous as a horse-racing center than any other place in the world, special means are adopted by the proprietors of the big racing studs for the spiritual welfare of their employees, especially of the jockeys, apprentices of the stable men and stable lads. Thus King Edward has built a chapel, attached to his training establishment at Sandringham, where there is a congregation every Sunday of several hundred, composed of the King's household and of the men and women of the other training quarters in the vicinity. The late Cardinal, Duke of Norfolk, who used to race under the name of "Mr. Marmion," and who was a very conspicuous figure on the turf, also built a very pretty chapel, devoted to the memory of his property at Newmarket for the use of his stable folk. Like the King, he maintained a chaplain, the duties of whose pastorate were restricted to celebrating divine service in the chapel, and to looking after the spiritual welfare of the people who were to play at Newmarket. In this he received a considerable amount of quite vigorous assistance, and the church, who was an extraordinary chess player and exceedingly picturesque, not a whit less so in his language. For when she was in the saddle, the race meetings she would sometimes march into the chapel, after the beginning of the Sunday morning service, and stride up the aisle, leading by the ear some luckless stable lad whom she had caught trying to play truant from church.

Boys begin to be trained as jockeys from the age of thirteen. They begin as stable lads, and when they are twelve or thirteen, they are through riding they generally wind up as trainers. Naturally the moral welfare of these boys requires attention, and it is thus cared for deserves to be brought to the knowledge of those who fondly imagine that any connection with horse-racing implies loose living, gambling, blasphemy, drinking and irreligion in general.

Lord Herschell, who has just been appointed controller of King Edward's household, and who is a special mission to the British government, in connection with the Canadian fisheries problem, and whose name is very unusual for a peer to hold the post of controller of the household, which is a political office. Indeed, this is the first occasion of a member of the upper house receiving such a secular appointment. Among the reasons to be found for the nomination is the fact that Lord Herschell is a Jew, and that the Jewish race has been the great grace of the King, whose lord in waiting he has been until now, and who enjoys the confidence of the administration. Indeed, he has just come from now on the latter's spokesman for foreign affairs in the House of Lords, and he is the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and his Under Secretary of State, being both of them in the House of Commons.

Lord Herschell, like his father before him, has a strong strain of Jewish blood in his veins. For the late Lord Herschell (no relative of the famous astronomer of that name) was a son of a Hebrew refugee from Poland, who was banished by the British government, became a missionary among his former coreligionists, started a Jewish colony in the East, and died in London, where he preached and did much good. His son adopted his father's profession, and after seven years' study in the law, met with every species of discouragement and disappointment, and eventually became a Jew. However, the leader of the Northern Circuit detected his remarkable legal ability, and from that time forth his rise was steady. He became Lord High Chancellor of the realm in 1888, being the first member of his race on record to hold the office of the keeper of the sovereign's conscience, as the Lord High Chancellor is officially styled, and his elevation to the peerage constituted the fulfillment of a prediction made at the time when Disraeli first became premier, that it would not be long before the Jewish race would be the highest office of the realm, would be held by a member of the Hebrew race, and that the Jewish race would be the first seven years' study in the law, met with every species of discouragement and disappointment, and eventually became a Jew. However, the leader of the Northern Circuit detected his remarkable legal ability, and from that time forth his rise was steady. 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